

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 AID-05 HA-05 /129 W
-----021798 111342Z /40

R 091640Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 295
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6039

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON SHABA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE CALLED IN ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION
JUNE 9 AND PRESENTED RAMBLING RESUME OF SHABA INVASION INCLUDING
EXPLANATION AND DEFENSE OF SOME OF GOZ ACTIONS. FOLLOWING ARE
POINTS OF MAJOR INTEREST:

A. INVASION WAS CLEARLY IN CONTEXT OF SOVIET AND CUBAN
STRATEGY TO DOMINATE AFRICA AND ZAIRE IN PARTICULAR. (PERHAPS
INADVERTENTLY, UMBA DID NOT REPEAT SPECIFIC CHARGES THAT CUBANS
PARTICIPATED IN KOLWEZI ATTACK OR THAT KATANGANS WERE ARMED WITH
SOVIET WEAPONS.)

B. ALGERIA WAS GUILTY OF COLLABORATING WITH KATANGANS
AND OTHER DISSIDENTS IN PLANNING INVASION.

C. DESPITE REPEATED ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES, KATANGANS
IN FACT TRANSITED ZAMBIAN TERRITORY BOTH WAYS -- PERHAPS
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INITIALLY WITHOUT GOVERNMENT'S KNOWLEDGE. HOWEVER, KAUNDA-
MOBUTU MEETING HAD CLEARED UP ALL PROBLEMS.

D. KOLWEZI WAS ONLY LIGHTLY DEFENDED BECAUSE OF NEED FOR
FAZ TO PROTECT VERY LONG ANGOLAN BORDER AND INTELLIGENCE
INDICATING ATTACKS WERE PLANNED AT SEVERAL DIFFERENT POINTS ALL
ALONG FRONTIER.

E. FAZ DELIBERATELY DID NOT RECAPTURE KOLWEZI AFTER RETAKING AIRPORT
IN
ORDER TO SPARE LIVES OF EUROPEAN HOSTAGES.

F. GOZ DECISION TO CALL IN FRENCH PROMPTED BY INTERCEPTED
ORDER FROM KATANGAN GENERAL MBUMBA TO KILL EUROPEANS AND DESTROY
MINING FACILITIES BEFORE RETREATING.

G. GOZ HAD RIGHT TO ASK FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM ANY
PARTY, AFRICAN OR NON-AFRICAN, CRITICISM OF FEW HUNDRED FRENCH
AND BELGIANS IN SHABA HARDLY JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF THOUSANDS OF
CUBANS ALREADY IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA. MOREOVER, TROOPS
FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES HAD ALREADY SERVED IN ANGOLA.

H. GOZ DID NOT WORK THROUGH OAU AND UN IN SETTING UP AFRICAN
FORCE IN SHABA SO AS NOT TO CAUSE FURTHER SPLITS IN THOSE
ORGANIZATIONS.

I. CRITICISM OF SHABA OPERATION FROM SO-CALLED PROGRESSIVE
STATES WAS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY SOVIETS (EVIDENCE: COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED BY ALGERIA AND BENIN WERE ALMOST IDENTICAL).

2. COMMENT: UMBA'S PRESENTATION, BELATED AND ILL-ORGANIZED,
WAS ESSENTIALLY REHASH OF POINTS GOZ HAS BEEN MAKING DURING
PAST FEW WEEKS. IT LACKED THE DRAMA OF LAST YEAR'S PITCH,
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THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SURROUNDED BY CASES OF
CAPTURED SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN ARMS, AND SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE
DISCERNIBLE IMPACT ON KINSHASA'S PIN-STRIPED CROWD
WHICH IS GETTING PRETTY USED TO ZAIRE'S DAILY DIET OF CRISIS
AND CHAOS.
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